

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am a strong supporter of stem cell research. California is recognized as a national and worldwide leader for its commitment to the advancement of this important science. Stem cell research has great potential to save millions of lives, but it must occur in a context that reflects the right balance between supporting this cutting edge research and avoiding potential harm to women's health. Accordingly, I am signing Senate Bill 1260.

As I stated in my veto message for SB 18 (Ortiz), which attempted to amend statutory provisions enacted by the voters in direct conflict with the Stem Cell Research and Cures Act (Proposition 71), I support measures to ensure women are fully informed of the risks involved with medical procedures for egg donation, to prohibit the sale of eggs and embryos for valuable consideration, and to protect against the exploitation of women by placing appropriate restrictions on financial reimbursement.

Some stem cell supporters maintain that limiting compensation to direct expenses for women choosing to donate eggs for research is inconsistent with protocols in other areas and may have an unintended chilling effect on this important scientific field. I ask the Department of Health Services to work with the Legislature, the research community, women's health advocates, and the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine to monitor this policy closely as stem cell research continues to evolve in California.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger